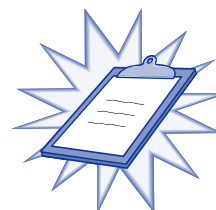




UPDATE Spring 2003

And the Survey Says



A survey was undertaken in late 2002 to supply an answer to the question, "What do South Carolinians know about runoff pollution?" Commissioned by DHEC's Nonpoint Source Outreach Program, the survey questioned over 500 people about their understanding of runoff pollution. The survey also asked about behaviors that relate to runoff pollution.

The results of the survey show that South Carolinians understand that activities on land can have an effect on nearby bodies of water. However, half of those surveyed did not know the fate of storm water and 17% thought that storm water is treated before entering local waterways. The survey also points out that knowledge and action are two different things. While a majority of respondents recognize threats to water quality, not all engage in practices that protect water quality.

If you would like to see the whole report visit <http://www.scdhec.net/water/ms4/index.html> and click on *DHEC's Survey of Public Awareness of Runoff Pollution*.



For a complete electronic copy or questions about the survey, contact Anne Marie Johnson johnsoam@dhec.sc.gov or (803) 898-4187.



Let me put you on the map!

Its time to update the Water Watch Groups' Map. *Please fill out and return the **Water Watch Annual Activity Report** to let me know your status. Those of you I don't hear from, I will call to check on.*

If you have any questions you can contact me at lasallli@dhec.sc.gov, or call, Lynne LaSalle (803)898-4211.

This Water Watch group shares the Wonders of Wetlands



Teacher Cathy Dailey described the first Bush River Water Festival as a “Water Celebration”. This annual celebration has taken place at Bell Street Middle School in Clinton since 1996. Hosted by Honor Science students, the festival draws elementary students from Laurens School District 55 and 56. The



Honor Science students and outside presenters introduce the younger students to wetlands, water quality and outdoor life. Approximately 480 students attended this year’s event.

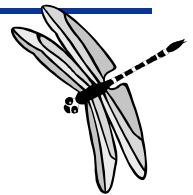
The festival takes place in and near a wetland that is part of the headwaters of the Bush River. Located on land owned by a private citizen and the public school the wetland was once a dumping ground for trash and tires. The wetland has been cleaned up, restored and maintained by students from both Laurens School Districts under the direction of the Joe Adair Outdoor Education Center. What better place to learn about protecting our environment?!



Protection, restoration and education are all parts of the mission of Bell Street Middle School Water Watch activities. Let us remember the part *each* Water Watch participant should play in the improvement of water quality and water quality awareness in our state.

Don’t just read about it ... do it!!

The hands-on format of a water festival is an *excellent* way to teach children and adults about the importance of water. If there is not already a water festival in your area, perhaps it is time to start one. The Groundwater Foundation has great resources for festival planners - <http://www.groundwater.org/catalog/Catalog.htm>, or call toll free: 1-800-858-4844.



Another organization involved with Water Festivals is Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). You might want to check out their online Water Festival designed for 4th and 5th grade students. <http://www.projectwet.com/wet.html>. The State Contact for Project WET is Janice Connor at SC Department of Natural Resources 803-734-6376.

Water Knowledge is Key for these Winners



The *water-wise* team from **Spartanburg High School** won the 2003 South Carolina Envirothon held May 2nd at Clemson University's Sandhill Research and Education Center.

Water knowledge made the difference at this year's **South Carolina Envirothon**. The team from Spartanburg High School won first place. This team also had the high score at the Aquatics Station. Aquatics is designed to test student knowledge of basic water science and water quality issues. The SC Envirothon is a qualifying event for the Canon Envirothon. The 2003 Canon Envirothon will be held at Mt. St. Mary College in Emmitsville, Maryland. Teams from 44 states and nine Canadian provinces will compete at this event. In addition to Aquatics, the other stations for Envirothon competition are Wildlife, Soils, Forestry, Preservation of Agricultural Lands (this year's special topic), and the Oral Presentation.

Last October four members of the Spartanburg High School Envirothon team attended the **Youth Watershed Summit**. This Summit was one of the events held to celebrate the "Year of Clean Water". The Youth Watershed Summit took place at the Smithsonian's Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland.



There the students from Spartanburg joined students and teachers from across the country in hands-on learning about the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The students also learned about Geographic Information Systems, prepared a radio spot for use at home and presented their own research project in a science fair. It appears that the Watershed Summit experience was not forgotten back in Spartanburg as the team prepared for the SC Envirothon competition.

"Envirothon has been a wonderful extracurricular activity for me. I have learned so much and have had fun doing it. Meeting people from all over the nation at the Youth Watershed Summit was another wonderful experience. I can't wait to go back to Maryland for Envirothon Nationals. Knowing a great deal about my environment is useful knowledge and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life. Making and having close friends with me on the team has made it fun and interesting along the way."

Katie Williams, senior member of the Spartanburg High School Envirothon team.

Way to go Spartanburg High School!
Good Luck in Maryland!

For more information on the Canon Envirothon visit, <http://www.envirothon.org/>
To find out more about SC Envirothon visit <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/envirothon/index.htm>
To read about the Youth Watershed Summit visit <http://www.yearofcleanwater.org/> -
click on Events and Youth Summit.

South Carolina DHEC's *Water Watch*



www.scdhec.net/wwatch

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED SURVEY. THANK YOU.

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